

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 4. This sheet, which includes only FIG. 4, replaces the original sheet including FIG. 4. An annotated sheet showing the changes made is also enclosed.

Attachment: One Replacement Sheet
One Annotated Sheet Showing Change(s)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

Entry of the above amendments, and reconsideration of the claim rejections, as they might apply to the original and amended claims in view of these remarks, is respectfully requested. Please cancel claims 2 and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1, 3-16, and 18-20 remain in the application. In this Response, claims 1, 3-7, 8-12, 14-16, and 18-20 have been amended. Claim 13 remains in its original form.

The amendments submitted above to certain paragraphs in the specification have been done so to correct informalities, such as switched, omitted, or incorrect figure reference characters or numbers, or inconsistent reference names, and to correct grammatical or spelling errors.

The amendment made to the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 was done to enumerate consistently and clearly the objects **330, 335, 340** and properties **365, 370, 375**.

The amendment made to the first paragraph on page 12 was done to properly reference the step in **FIG. 4** that was not called out.

The amendment made to the second paragraph on page 12 was done to correct a reference number (operation “**418**” should be operation “**420**”) and to preserve consistent reference names (“start measure child helper operation” **502** should be “begin measure child helper operation” **502**).

No new matter has been added through any of these amendments.

The corrections submitted to the figures have been done so to correct informalities, such as switched, omitted, or incorrect figure reference characters, and to correct grammatical or spelling errors. Specifically, the correction made to **FIG. 4** was done to remove a text box and a tag number (**412**) that are not referenced in the specification. Thus, **FIG. 4** is now in conformance with the written description.

The amendments submitted above to certain claims have been done so either in response to the Examiner’s rejections or objections or to correct claim dependency, to correct antecedent

basis, to correct inconsistent claim element names, to put the claim in conventional form, to correct punctuation, spelling, improper word usage, and the like.

Specifically, Claim 1 was amended to correct claim form as the word “and” was inadvertently used apart from the penultimate claim element.

Claim 3 was amended to correct punctuation for a missing semicolon (“displayed” should be “displayed;”).

Claim 14 was amended to correct claim form as the word “and” was inadvertently used apart from the penultimate claim element.

Claim 15 was amended to correct punctuation for a missing semicolon (“displayed” should be “displayed;”).

Claim 16 was amended to correct claim form as the word “and” was inadvertently used apart from the penultimate claim element.

No new matter has been introduced through any of these claim amendments.

A. Corrections to the Drawings
Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121

Submitted herewith, according to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(d), are Applicant’s corrected drawing sheets including corrections to **FIG. 4**.

In **FIG. 4**, reference character **412** and its corresponding text box have been deleted because the written description does not reference the text box or the reference character. Thus, the figure now conforms to the written description.

No new matter has been added in making these corrections.

B. Objection to Claims
Informalities

The Examiner objected to claim 5 because of an informality. In response to the objection, Applicant has amended claim 5 to correct the informality of a missing semicolon

("comprises" should be "comprises:"); and now believes that amended claim 5 is in acceptable form.

C. Rejection of Claims
Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Item 4 In The Office Action

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response to the above rejection, Applicant has cancelled claims 2 and 17, and has amended claims 1, 3-7, 8-12, 14-16, and 18-20 to deal with each of the items (a) through (p) pointed out by the Examiner. As a result, Applicant believes that all of the remaining claims, 1, 3-16, and 18-20, as amended, overcome the Examiner's rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and reconsideration of that rejection is respectfully requested.

D. Rejection of Claims
Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Item 6 In The Office Action

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Joseph, U.S. Patent No. 5,873,106.

In response, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 14 to more distinctly distinguish Applicant's invention through the further limitations of:

(claim 1)

detecting, via an abstraction layer implemented as an instance of an
abstraction layer class, a layout edit operation for the child object displayed on the
video display by the computer system;

...

if a parameter limitation exists in the one or more parameters, editing the
layout of the child object if a parameter limitation exists for the parameter, in

accordance with the ~~one or more parameter limitations~~limitation through a method of the abstraction layer class.

(claim 14)

detecting, via an abstraction layer implemented as an instance of an abstraction layer class, a layout edit operation for a child object displayed on the video display by the computer system;

...

editing the a layout of the child object through a method of the abstraction layer class if a limitation exists, and in accordance with the one or more layout parameter limitations.

Support for these amendments may be found in the specification on page 8, lines 21-31 in reference to FIG. 3. Applicant submits that Joseph does not teach nor suggest the additional limitations of the abstraction layer being implemented as an instance of an abstraction layer class, nor editing a layout of the child object through a method of the abstraction layer class. Since the Joseph reference does not disclose expressly or inherently all of the elements and limitations of Applicant's amended claims 1 and 14, Applicant believes that these claims are not anticipated by Joseph and requests withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claims 15 and 16 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 14 and include all the elements and limitations thereof. As a result, and in light of the foregoing remarks concerning independent claim 14, Applicant likewise believes that dependent claims 15 and 16 also overcome the Examiner's rejection based on Joseph under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and withdrawal of that rejection in respect to these claims is respectfully requested.

**E. Rejection of Claims
 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Item 8 In The Office Action

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-7 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Joseph in view of SEI, Software Engineering Institute “Layering ABAS,” March 15, 2003.

In response, Applicant has cancelled claims 2 and 17 rendering the rejection moot in respect to these claims. Applicant has also amended independent claims 1 and 14 as described above in Section D to remove Joseph as anticipatory prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Therefore, combining SEI with the teaching of Joseph cannot arrive at Applicant’s claimed invention as embodied in dependent claims 3-7 and 18-20. Applicant thus believes that dependent claims 3-7 and 18-20 now overcome the Examiner’s rejection based on Joseph in view of SEI, and withdrawal of that rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) to these claims is respectfully requested.

Item 9 In The Office Action

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Joseph in view of Bray, “Application Programming Interface,” February 2, 2003.

In response, Applicant has amended independent claim 8 to more distinctly distinguish Applicant’s invention through the further limitations of:

(claim 8)

a memory coupled with and readable by the processor and containing instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to detect a layout edit operation request for ~~a~~ the child object displayed on the video display by the computer system, send an edit operation request via an application program interface, via an abstraction layer implemented as an instance of an abstraction layer class, to initiate layout editing of the child object, determine whether the child object has one or more parameter limitations, determine whether the parent container has one or more parameter limitations, and edit the child object layout through a method of the abstraction layer class based on the one or more parameter limitations and the ~~received~~ layout edit operation request detected.

Support for these amendments may be found in the specification on page 8, lines 21-31 in reference to FIG. 3. Applicant submits that neither Joseph nor Bray teach or suggest the additional limitations of the abstraction layer being implemented as an instance of an abstraction layer class, nor editing a layout of the child object through a method of the abstraction layer class. Therefore, combining Bray with the teaching of Joseph cannot arrive at Applicant's claimed invention as embodied in independent claim 8. Applicant thus believes that independent claim 8 now overcomes the Examiner's rejection based on Joseph in view of Bray, and withdrawal of that rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) to these claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 9 through 13 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 8 and include all the elements and limitations thereof. As a result, and in light of the foregoing remarks concerning independent claim 8, Applicant likewise believes that dependent claims 9 through 13 also overcome the Examiner's rejection based on Joseph in view of Bray, and withdrawal of that rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) to these claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

This Amendment fully responds to the Office Action mailed on March 7, 2007. Still, that Office Action may contain arguments and rejections that are not directly addressed by this Amendment due to the fact that they are rendered moot in light of the preceding arguments in favor of patentability. Hence, failure of this Amendment to directly address an argument raised in the Office Action should not be taken as an indication that the Applicant believes the argument has merit. Furthermore, the claims of the present application may include other elements, not discussed in this Amendment, which are not shown, taught, or otherwise suggested by the art of record. Accordingly, the preceding arguments in favor of patentability are advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

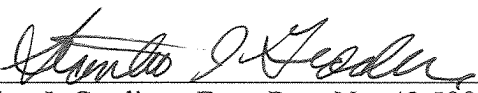
Thus, a bona-fide attempt has been made to ensure that the application meets all statutory requirements and is in condition for allowance. The Examiner's early indication to that effect is, therefore, courteously solicited.

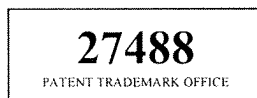
If a telephone conference would expedite allowance or resolve any additional questions, such a call is invited at the Examiner's convenience.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are due with this response. If this is not the case, please charge all required fees, or fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17, or all required extension of time fees due, or credit any overpayment to, deposit account 13-2725. Please consider this a Petition For Extension Of Time for a sufficient number of months to enter this correspondence, or any future reply, if appropriate, for an extension of time for its timely submission.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

One (1) Replacement Sheet Of Drawings

One (1) Annotated Sheet Showing Changes To The Drawing